

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

OMB-01 AID-05 /064 W

-----011106Z 001574 /13

P R 011002Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0805

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZORES

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

USNMR SHAPE BRUSSELS BEL

TAC LANGLEY VA/GEN GABRIEL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, MARR, PO

SUBJ: AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LISBON 2571 (DTG 311013Z MAR 77)

SUMMARY: COMMUNIST-LINE NEWSPAPER HAS REPLAYED EARLIER
"DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" STORY QUOTING TAC COMMANDER AS SAYING
AZORES BASE WAS ABSOLUTE PRIORITY FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW.
SOARES DENIED THAT BASE NEGOTIATIONS WERE ON HIS AGENDA FOR
MEETING WITH PRESIDENT CARTER. CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY "TEMPO"
HEADLINED ARTICLE THAT GOP INTENDED TO DEMAND HUGE QUID FOR
BASE -- A STORY PATENTLY DESIGNED TO EMBARRASS GOVERNMENT.
END SUMMARY.

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1. COMMUNIST PAPER ON BASE NEGOTIATIONS: MAR 30
COMMUNIST-LINE "DIARIO DE LISBOA" PICKED UP EARLIER
"DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" (DN) STORY ABOUT AZORES BASE
NEGOTIATIONS (REFTEL). TITLED "ABSOLUTE PRIORITY FOR
LAJES BASE," ARTICLE REPLAYED MAIN POINTS OF DN STORY
WITH EMPHASIS ON QUOTE ATTRIBUTED TO GEN GABRIEL
THAT LAJES WAS AN "ABSOLUTE PRIORITY FROM THE AMERICAN

POINT OF VIEW."

2. "TEMPO" CLAIMS GOP TO DEMAND HUGE QUID: MAR 31
ISSUE OF CONSERVATIVE WEEKLY "TEMPO" HEADLINED
"THE AMERICANS WILL PAY WELL FOR THE UTILIZATION OF
THE AZORES BASE" WITH ARTICLE SAYING:
-- GOP WILL DEMAND A "HUGE" SUM FOR THE AZORES BASE.
-- SPAIN CONSTRUCTED ITS ENORMOUS SUPERHIGHWAY SYSTEM
USING AMERICAN MONEY GIVEN FOR THE BASES IN THE SOUTH
INCLUDING ROTA.
-- IT IS LIKELY THAT U.S. WILL ARRANGE FOR PAYMENT IN THE
FORM OF PUBLIC WORKS LIKE ROADS, HOSPITALS, AND BRIDGES.
IN THIS CASE -- AS HAPPENED IN SPAIN -- THE TECHNICAL
SUPPORT AND CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL WILL BE AMERICAN.
-- A PART OF THE PAYMENT WILL GO TO THE AZORES. THE
AMOUNT IS TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE SOARES GOVERNMENT
AND THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AZORES REGIONAL ADMINISTRATION.
-- IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT PORTUGAL WILL NOT
IMPEDE UTILIZATION OF THE BASE DURING COURSE OF
THE AGREEMENT, REGARDLESS OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES.

3. SOARES DENIES DN STORY: PRIME MINISTER SOARES
DENIED TO PRESS MAR 30 THAT AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS
WERE ON HIS AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION WITH PRESIDENT
CARTER (REFTEL).

4. COMMENT: "TEMPO" STORY IS PATENT ATTEMPT TO
EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT AND IS NOT SUPPORTED BY
WAY GOP REACTED IN RECENTLY-CONCLUDED RFE/RL NEGOTIATIONS.
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AT SAME TIME, GOP IS UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE AZOREAN REGIONAL
GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE A FAT QUID FOR ISLAND DEVELOPMENT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, NEGOTIATIONS, MILITARY BASES, AZORES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LISBON02634
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770112-0259
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770499/aaaadhyn.tel
Line Count: 100
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3d7b07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LISBON 2571
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26-Aug-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2928521
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: PINT, MARR, PO, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3d7b07ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009